

Fairness is the Foundation of Good Journalism

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

COMMENTS ON TORRANCE PARSON - TRUSTEE

TORRANCE now has a parson trustee—Rev. Francis Zeller, pastor of the Central Evangelical church. He accepted the appointment to the office to fill the vacancy caused by resignation of E. H. Nash. In an interview with this paper the new parson-trustee declares that "religion in the sectarian sense has no place in politics," but that, public office being an opportunity of service to the people, a minister of the gospel should welcome an opportunity to devote his energies to such work.

We wish to concur heartily with the opinion of Rev. Zeller. In these days of fast business, economic pressure and slap-dash living, citizens have lapsed into a dangerous state of mind concerning men who hold public office.

An opprobrium has settled itself around all of our governmental institutions. Isolated cases of malfeasance in office contribute to the public contention that all public servants are self-seeking. Disrespect for government strikes at the heart of American principles—yet this disrespect is growing instead of decreasing.

As a general rule American cities, counties,

states, and the nation, are fairly well governed—probably as well as the immense size and widely diverse interests of modern life will permit.

But the public, apathetic to the serious thought and hard work of most public servants, seeks out only mistakes of public officials. Street-corner gossip brands all officials grafters, panders. The word politician has come to mean "self-seeker" and "crook."

So great has become the disrepute in which public men are popularly held that men of high caliber, certain unselfishness and with a high sense of public duty have been unwilling to accept public office.

So it is with gratification that we welcome the advent to office of a man of the high caliber and splendid purposes of Rev. Zeller. More men of his type in office would soon bring back respect for government.

We congratulate the trustees on the wisdom of their selection, Rev. Zeller on the high purpose with which he accepted the office, and Torrance on the fact that the new spirit of progress which is sweeping the city is so clearly reflected in Rev. Zeller's appointment.

BRITISH ABANDON THREAT AT SINGAPORE

IF it accomplished nothing else, the victory of Labor and Liberals in England has already resulted in a signal service to mankind. For the Liberals and Laborites have forced abandonment of Britain's plan for the fortification of Singapore.

According to the agreements made at the disarmament conference Britain contracted not to fortify any ports or islands within a certain zone. In return the United States made similar agreements concerning Pacific possessions. It looked like a good contract for everybody.

But right after the conference Britain laid plans to make of Singapore an impregnable stronghold and fleet base. And Singapore lies just a few miles outside the zone established by the Washington conference.

At the conference British statesmen induced everybody else to agree not to fortify Pacific possessions. But she succeeded in putting

Singapore outside the zone—a neat bit of European statesmanship.

Liberals, Laborites and proponents of world peace saw in the Singapore plan a new British movement for complete control of the Orient. It really amounted to that. And affairs in the East are not of the nature now that will allow such control, without eventual resistance, by a European power.

The British Singapore project would have laid the certain foundations for future wars. The statesmen who jockeyed agreements at Washington promoted this ambitious plan to control the Orient.

They won at Washington but lost at home. The ballot defeated the bureau. For once the British public thwarted the eternal determination for British expansion which has always guided the policies of the British foreign office and war department.

JUST A FEW ADVANTAGES AMERICA HAS

THE one thing above all others that has given modern conveniences to the common everyday American citizen has been the character of our government, which encouraged the individual of enterprise to go ahead and develop industries unhampered by stifling interference and official control such as experienced in other nations.

The following facts speak for themselves and are a testimonial as to the advantages of the American system contrasted with methods which discourage private initiative:

The use of manufactured gas in Great Britain, where the industry was born a century and a quarter ago, in steadily increasing, and last year totaled 232,600,000,000 cubic feet, or 5524

cubic feet per capita on a population basis of 42,000,000.

New York state alone, where the first manufactured gas company was established in 1823, has developed a per capita use of gas of nearly double this amount, with an estimated production this year of approximately 90,000,000,000 cubic feet.

The production of electrical energy in Great Britain last year reached a high total of 5,738,700,000 kilowatt-hours, whereas New York state this year will use approximately 9,000,000,000 kilowatt-hours, or nearly 800 kilowatt-hours for each person in the state, as against 134 kilowatt-hours for each of the 42,000,000 persons in Great Britain.

When it comes to telephones, there is one for every 13 people in the nation, something unheard of in any other country in the world.

IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN TOUCH IN INDUSTRY

THE human touch in industry is ever attracting the attention of broad-visioned executives. An example of this may be gathered from the methods employed by the management of the Federal Mining and Smelting company, operating the Morning mine at Mullan, Idaho. With a purpose to create a healthy environment for its hundreds of workmen the company a few years ago erected a handsome club house and equipped it with every facility for recreation. The Morning club was established and every employe became an active and enthusiastic member.

Local business men eagerly fell into the plan

and aided in making it a success. The mine workers mingled with the business men of the town, and soon any existing feeling of inequality among the workers faded with the good fellowship manifested at the club. Now the Morning club has established a night school for the benefit of its members and already has a splendid enrollment.

What is more conducive to healthy co-operation between employe and employer than to establish the human touch in business administration?

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC INTEREST FIRST

THE average citizen seems to feel that he is not qualified to discuss the Muscle Shoals project and the disposition of this great public property by congress, due to the magnitude of the transaction involved.

As a matter of fact the property belongs to the people, and Henry Ford has made a proposition to lease it from the government for a period of 100 years at a very low rental, part of the consideration for which seems to be that he will undertake to make cheap fertilizer. This latter point, however, is apparently indefinite as to quantity or price.

If a man leased a farm to a third party on condition that he clear out so many stumps per year, and the lessee failed to live up to his agreement, a good lease would provide that the land revert to the lessor, and not be left with the lessee for speculative purposes.

After all verbiage is brushed away, it would seem that this is about the situation in regard to Muscle Shoals, and the public interest should be protected along these lines whether the lease is made to Henry Ford or to anybody else. This property should not be used as the basis of private speculation.

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NOTICE OF SALE
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will on the 27th day of December, 1923, at the hour of 10 A. M., at the Day & Night Garage, Torrance, California, offer for sale to the highest bidder the following described property:
One Certain Ford Roadster with a 1923 License Number 487925, with engine No. 5393117.
The property above mentioned was seized on Border Street, near the Columbia Steel Corporation, in the City of Torrance, on the 12th day of November, 1923, and the same has been ordered confiscated and sold after the conviction of the owner and driver thereof on a charge of transporting intoxicating liquors in said automobile.
Notice of the seizure of said property has been published and posted according to law and no claimant of said property has appeared.
Dated this 13th day of December.
B. M. ANDERSON,
City Marshal of the City of Torrance.



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